

1 Kathleen Sullivan (SBN 242261)  
kathleensullivan@quinnmanuel.com  
2 QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART &  
SULLIVAN LLP  
3 51 Madison Avenue, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10010  
4 Telephone: (212) 849-7000  
Facsimile: (212) 849-7100

5 Sean S. Pak (SBN 219032)  
seanpak@quinnmanuel.com  
6 Amy H. Candido (SBN 237829)  
amycandido@quinnmanuel.com  
7 John M. Neukom (SBN 275887)  
johnneukom@quinnmanuel.com.  
8 QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART &  
SULLIVAN LLP  
9 50 California Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
10 Telephone: (415) 875-6600  
Facsimile: (415) 875-6700

11 Mark Tung (SBN 245782)  
marktung@quinnmanuel.com  
12 QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART &  
SULLIVAN LLP  
13 555 Twin Dolphin Drive, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Redwood Shores, CA 94065  
14 Telephone: (650) 801-5000  
Facsimile: (650) 801-5100

15 *Attorneys for Plaintiff Cisco Systems, Inc.*

16 Steven Cherny (*admitted pro hac vice*)  
steven.cherny@kirkland.com  
17 KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP  
601 Lexington Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
Telephone: (212) 446-4800  
Facsimile: (212) 446-4900

18 Adam R. Alper (SBN 196834)  
adam.alper@kirkland.com  
19 KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP  
555 California Street  
San Francisco, California 94104  
Telephone: (415) 439-1400  
Facsimile: (415) 439-1500

20 Michael W. De Vries (SBN 211001)  
michael.devries@kirkland.com  
21 KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP  
333 South Hope Street  
Los Angeles, California 90071  
Telephone: (213) 680-8400  
Facsimile: (213) 680-8500

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CISCO SYSTEMS, INC.,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
ARISTA NETWORKS, INC.,  
Defendant.

CASE NO. 5:14-cv-5344-BLF (NC)

**BRIEF RE: OPINION OF DR.  
ALMEROOTH ON PARSER SOURCE  
CODE AS REQUESTED BY THE COURT**

Judge: Hon. Beth Labson Freeman

1 Pursuant to the Court’s instructions following the *Daubert* hearing, Cisco provides the  
 2 following submission relating to Dr. Kevin Almeroth’s expert opinions on the similarities in the  
 3 CLI parser source code between Cisco and Arista products. Dr. Almeroth had previously  
 4 provided his expert opinions for the ‘526 patent in the context of the claim construction  
 5 proceedings. (Dkt. 91-1).

6 In the Second Amended Complaint, Cisco set forth its allegations that Arista willfully  
 7 infringed Cisco’s ‘526 patent. As part of these allegations, Cisco specifically alleged that “[o]n  
 8 information and belief, Mr. Duda and/or other Arista engineers who had worked previously for  
 9 Cisco were *exposed to highly confidential source code* and product implementation details for a  
 10 wide variety of Cisco’s proprietary products and technologies, *e.g.*, **Cisco’s CLI parser**,  
 11 centralized database system (“sysDB”), management applications, and software development tools  
 12 and interfaces.” (Dkt. 64, Second Amended Complaint, ¶ 61).

13 Under Federal Circuit precedent, evidence of product copying is relevant to the  
 14 determination of willful infringement. *Liquid Dynamics Corp. v. Vaughan Co.*, 449 F.3d 1209,  
 15 1225 (Fed. Cir. 2006). Accordingly, in support of Cisco’s willfulness allegations for the ‘526  
 16 patent, Dr. Kevin Almeroth provided his expert analysis and opinions regarding non-standard  
 17 similarities in the CLI parser source code for both Cisco and Arista products, including similarities  
 18 in the application of parser rules and the processing of command tokens. (Dkt. 419-10 at ¶¶ 83-  
 19 86). At his deposition, he was asked to explain his opinions on those topics, and he responded by  
 20 providing further details on his reasoning and bases for his opinions. (Dkt. 419-12 at 274:1-  
 21 293:14).

22 Thus, under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26, Cisco has properly preserved the issue of  
 23 non-standard similarities in the CLI parser code with respect to the ‘526 patent. At the *Daubert*  
 24 hearing, however, the Court observed that the issue of “non-standard” behavior associated with  
 25 Dr. Almeroth’s opinions is “not unlike the problem identified with Dr. Black” and “so you know I  
 26 need to be consistent here.” (Dkt. 516. 9/9/16 Hearing Tr. at 51:10-12). In light of the Court’s  
 27 comments, and in order to streamline the issues for the Court, Cisco hereby stipulates that it will  
 28 not present at trial Dr. Almeroth’s opinions relating to the non-standard similarities in the CLI

1 parser source code between Cisco and Arista products (setting aside his opinions on the screen  
2 output and helpdesc similarities) for any purpose. Cisco maintains its *Daubert* objections to the *de*  
3 *facto* industry standard opinions from Arista's experts, including Dr. Black.

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6 Dated: September 16, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

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/s/ John M. Neukom

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Kathleen Sullivan (SBN 242261)  
kathleensullivan@quinnmanuel.com  
QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART &  
SULLIVAN LLP  
51 Madison Avenue, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10010  
Telephone: (212) 849-7000  
Facsimile: (212) 849-7100

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johnneukom@quinnmanuel.com.  
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SULLIVAN LLP  
50 California Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
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20

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22

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SULLIVAN LLP  
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Redwood Shores, CA 94065  
Telephone: (650) 801-5000  
Facsimile: (650) 801-5100

24

25

26

27

28

Steven Cherny *admitted pro hac vice*)  
steven.cherny@kirkland.com  
KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP  
601 Lexington Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
Telephone: (212) 446-4800  
Facsimile: (212) 446-4900

Adam R. Alper (SBN 196834)  
adam.alper@kirkland.com

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2 555 California Street  
3 San Francisco, California 94104  
Telephone: (415) 439-1400  
Facsimile: (415) 439-1500

4 Michael W. De Vries (SBN 211001)  
5 michael.devries@kirkland.com  
6 KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP  
7 333 South Hope Street  
Los Angeles, California 90071  
Telephone: (213) 680-8400  
Facsimile: (213) 680-8500

8 *Attorneys for Plaintiff Cisco Systems, Inc.*

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